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INFORMANT REPORT

COUNTRY Ecuador

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DATE DISTR. 3 November 1948

SUBJECT Proposed Conspiracy against Plaza Administration  
25X1A

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1. On 18 October 1948 Vice-President Manuel Sotomayor y Luna warned President Plaza that the Conservative Party had been approached by certain Liberals and leftists in Guayaquil to join a conspiracy against the present administration. This group claims that they have the support of the majority of units in the Second Division of the Army in Guayaquil, in addition to the support of other units scattered throughout the country. Sotomayor, a Conservative, assured Galo Plaza Lasso that his party had declined the invitation to participate in any subversive action against the Government.
2. Plaza, [REDACTED] is steadily losing support from the Armed Forces. Their grievances stem from the following:
  - a. The proposed reduction of the Armed Force budget.
  - b. The proposed reorganization of the Armed Forces and the reshuffling of top personnel.
  - c. The proposed plan to use the Army for road building.
  - d. Apprehension by Army leaders that Plaza will build up the Guardia Civil at the expense of the Army in order to provide a counterbalance to the political weight of the Army.
3. According to another source, although Plaza may be losing support in the Army, there is no known defection of the Armed Forces in the Guayaquil area at this time. On the contrary, the Communist leaders are very much concerned over their weak position within the Armed Forces and are increasing their efforts to penetrate the lower ranks in the coastal region. Simon Zambrano, a Communist charged with the penetration of the Armed Forces, informed Enrique Gil Gilbert on 18 October that he had had no success to date.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 6/30/2017

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